CCAOI Newsletter	November 2020

Highlights of November

This month Fifteen Asia-Pacific countries including China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, and Malaysia, signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), termed as the **largest trade agreement** in the world. This comes after eight years of negotiations. The signatory countries represent about 30% of the world's population, of global GDP, and nearly 28% of global trade. Expected to shape global economics and politics, the RCEP is intended to facilitate international trade by reducing tariffs and administrative requirements among the member states' regulating Telecommunication services, including ICTs, Intellectual property, setting up dispute settlement; E-commerce, etc. India however, withdrew from negotiations last year due to concerns over its domestic industry and the potential of widening trade deficits with member countries, especially China.

Antitrust action against Tech companies continued this month amidst concerns of their growing power. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has initiated an investigation over Google's abuse of its dominant position in its app store to promote its payments services Google Pay; the EU Commission has filed antitrust charges against Amazon for breaching competition laws by unfairly using sellers' data to harm their businesses; Antitrust public Authorities is China has released a 22-page document defining antitrust behaviour within the Chinese tech sector and proposes antitrust regulation for big tech giants; a group of 165 companies have written to the European Commission seeking tougher action against Google anti-competitive practices; CEOs of Facebook and Twitter testify in front of the US Senate on alleged anti-conservative bias; UK Competition and Markets Authority plans to limit dominant positions of Google and Facebook; Turkey imposed 10 million lira fine on social platforms, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok, for not appointing official representatives in the country as required by the country's digital media law; the Indian Government announced that all content on OTT platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and others, and digital news sites will be now regulated by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB); Britain's competition regulator the CMA said it had received a complaint about Google related to its market study on online platforms and digital advertising earlier this year and the European states have announced their intentions to finalise, by the end of the year, a regulation requiring Internet platforms to remove terrorist content online within an hour of its being reported.

Cyber security was a much-discussed topic especially tackling terrorist content across borders with growing cybercrime.
This month, the UN First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) adopted 15 resolutions of which 2 are competing resolutions on cyberspace and international security; the US Senate passed by unanimous consent H.R. 1668, the Internet of Things Cybersecurity Improvement Act; the EU home affairs ministers have issued a joint statement calling out for lawful access to encrypted digital evidence; a leaked draft of the Councils resolution on encryption reiterates strong support for encryption, but also requires enabling LEAs to access content in a readable and usable format where authorisation is lawfully issued; Taiwan launched its financial cybersecurity plan; the Telecommunications security law has been laid in the Houses of Parliament in

the UK; the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament reached a provisional political agreement on a revised regulation on cyber-surveillance technology; and the Council of Europe's Cybercrime Convention Committee is inviting comments on the draft 2nd Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

In terms of **advisories, toolkits and reports** released, CERT-In issues advisory for companies against new ransomware; the Monetary Authority of Singapore released recommendations for managing cyber risks by financial institutions and launched a consultation on the proposed notice on non-face to face identity verification; European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) has released its Cybersecurity in Railways report highlighting the cyber security challenges and need for investment in cybersecurity and the New York State Department of Financial Services announced a partnership with Global Cyber Alliance to bring a free cybersecurity toolkit to small businesses

Some of the reported **cyber-attacks and data breaches** this month include: on Manchester United; the cyber-attack on BigBasket leaking 20 million users' data; an 'information security incident' that affected multiple internal systems at Indian pharmaceutical company Lupin; data of 1.4 Mn registered users on the job portal IIMjobs allegedly leaked on the dark web; WhiteHat Jr, a popular online coding platform for young kids, reportedly exposed personal data of over 2.8 lakh students and teachers due to multiple vulnerabilities. India's National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt Gen (retd) Rajesh Pant mentioned that everyday around 4 lakh malware are found and 375 cyber-attacks are witnessed.

Microsoft has alleged that the attacks on pharmaceutical companies and vaccine researchers in Canada, France, India, South Korea, and the United States. has been from Russia and North Korea ; Canada has identified state sponsored state sponsored programs in China, Russia, Iran and North Korea as major cybercrime threats.

The **fines on companies for data breaches** continue. The reported fines this month were: South Korean agency for protecting personal information fined Facebook Inc 6.7 billion won ($6.06 million) and sought a criminal investigation for providing users' personal information to other operators without consent; Ticketmaster UK has been fined £1.25m by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for failing to keep its customers' personal data secure following a cyber-attack on the Ticketmaster website in 2018; French regulator CNIL imposed a fine of €800,000 on Carrefour Banque for GDPR and electronic communications code breaches; the Dublin Circuit Court had confirmed the Irish Data Protection Commission's (DPC) decision to fine Tusla Child and Family Agency €75,000 and the Turkish Competition Board has fined Google 196.7 million lira ($26 million) for abusing its dominant market position.

In another instance, the Regional Court of Bonn reduced a multi-million euro fine initially levied by the German data protection authority (DPA) on telecom operator 1&1 Telecom on the basis that it was disproportionate.

The **Tech Geopolitics** continues with ByteDance challenging the Executive Order of divestiture in TikTok in court; the US Department of Justice confirming that it filed an appeal against a decision of a federal judge in Pennsylvania that halted the TikTok ban from coming into force on 12 November 2020 and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS) granted an additional seven-7 day extension to ByteDance until 4 December 2020 to divest from TikTok.

In India the government banned another 43 Chinese mobile applications citing security concerns, taking the tally of banned Chinese apps in India to 267.

This month several UN Organisations issued a joint statement highlighting importance of **data protection and privacy** in the response to COVID-19; Privacy International (PI) and 13 other civil societies from Europe and

Africa urged for reforms to EU aid and co-operation programmes to ensure they promote privacy protections and human rights in third countries; the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) urged universities that have launched or plan to launch COVID-19 tracking technologies to make them entirely voluntary for students and disclose details about data collection practices.

The European Commission published its proposed draft of the EU Data Governance Act (DGA), which outlines how digital services should handle data in the future and is part of the 2020 European Strategy for Data. The draft DGA which is expected to be adopted soon, regulates the following areas: reuse of public sector data; trusted intermediaries; data altruism; creation of the European Data Innovation Board and Data processing in the EU. Further the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) adopted a statement on the ePrivacy regulations, affirming to complement the GDPR regulations and providing additional strong guarantees for confidentiality and protection for all types of electronic communication; the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) adopted recommendations on measures that supplement transfer tools to ensure compliance with EU standards of personal data protection, as well as recommendations on the European Essential Guarantees for surveillance measures; the European Commission published a draft implementing decision on standard contractual clauses (SCCs) for the transfer of personal data to third countries pursuant to the EU General Data Protection Regulation, along with a draft set of new SCCs.

Microsoft announced new steps to support data protection in EU; the Belgian data protection authority (DPA) released data protection toolbox for data controllers and processors; Spanish data protection authority (DPA) released a paper on data protection in public administration; Canada introduced a new data protection legislation; the Parliament of Singapore adopted proposed amendments to the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA); Malta ratified the amending Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Processing of Personal Data (CETS 223) to the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC) published a set of recommendations to reform the country's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA), to ensure that an adequate legal framework is in place to help reap the benefit of artificial intelligence (AI) while upholding individuals' fundamental right to privacy.

For protecting children online, the Committee of Convention 108, at the Council of Europe, adopted the Guidelines on Children's Data Protection in an Education Setting, during the 40th plenary meeting organised between 18-20 November; for protecting children online the European Commission (EC) is suggesting suspending part of a new privacy directive that is set to come into force at the end of December for a period of five years; UNICEF has release a six-point plan and data and advocacy brief, 'Averting a lost COVID Generation', to protect children during the pandemic.

In **terms of lawsuits filed**, the Digital Rights Lawyers Initiative has filed a lawsuit against the Federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment in Nigeria against data protection violations while processing citizens' data on their portal; Digital rights group noyb has filed a complaints against C-Planet IT Solutions, an IT company responsible for a leaked database of voter's data in Malta and two complaints in Spain and Germany against Apple's tracking code IDFA.

In terms of **Emerging Technologies,** concerns related to security of Internet of Things (IoT) devices and Artificial Intelligence (AI) ethics continued to be debated, with various guidelines, reports and government initiatives being taken.
The Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) and the Australian Research Council (ARC) released a report highlighting the advantages of IoT for Australia; European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) published guidelines for securing IoT supply chain.

This month a [report published](#) by Europol, the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and Trend Micro highlighted the harmful uses of AI; Brazil announced the creation of a [national innovation network focused on AI;](#) Australia created [new tools to address Algorithmic biases](#) in AI; the White House issued a [memorandum](#) providing guidance to federal agencies to consider when developing regulatory approaches to AI applications and the European parliament announced [first set of EU rules for AI](#)

Human rights violations from the use of **Facial Recognition Technology (FRT)** were much discussed. The 32 country Freedom Online Coalition [issued a statement expressing concern on the use of AI especially through FRT, content moderation that is resulting in human rights violations](#); citizens of Portland City, Maine in USA [have voted to support a ballot initiative](#) that bans the use of FRT by law enforcement and other city agencies; the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) [has banned](#) the use of third party FRT, allowing only the use of Los Angeles County Regional Identification System; twelve human rights groups in Europe [have launched](#) the '[Reclaim Your Face'](#) campaign calling on authorities to hear the concerns raised by communities about the risks of using FRT and other biometric technologies in public spaces.

The VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and quantum computing company IQM [have established a co-innovation partnership](#) to build Finland's first quantum computer.

In terms of **Fake news and Misinformation**, the Austrian Supreme Court has delivered its [final judgement in the case Glawischnig-Piesczek v. Facebook Ireland Ltd](#), requiring Facebook to delete all defamatory statements about Austrian politician Eva Gawischnig-Pieczek globally; the European Commission has [called](#) on Internet platforms to provide more granular data on measures taken against COVID-19-related misinformation; Fact-check platform "[Fact Check Net](#)" created to address misinformation in South Korea; [European Commission published third set of reports](#) on actions taken against COVID-related misinformation by companies**;** YouTube suspended news outlet [One America News Network (OAN)](#) for violating its policy on misinformation; [Facebook released the new transparency report](#) that elucidated to information about the prevalence of hate speech on the platform. Facebook estimates between 0.10% to 0.11% of users violate hate speech policies.

Discussions related to the **commissions charged by tech companies** were much discussed. [South Korean lawmakers have called on Google to lower its commission for app market purchases](#) amid concerns of local app developers over high fees; [Apple](#) announced it will reduce its App Store commission rate by 15% for app developers with less than USD$1 million in annual net sales; [Google announced postponing the 30 per cent commission](#) on in-app purchases of digital content from its Play Store from next January to next September. Further, [Google announced signing of " some individual agreements" on copyright payments to French newspapers and magazines](#); facing backlash from developers.

In terms of **digital tax**, the French government has announced that [online tech platforms will have to pay a 'digital tax'](#) for their 2020 earning; [Google reportedly paid Rs 604 crores](#) which is approximately 55% of its actual equilisation levy for FY20 in India.

Other Updates:

- In a co-ordinated effort, [law enforcement from France, Germany, Monaco, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, with the support of Europol](#), took down an organised crime group involved in intellectual property crime.

- This month [WhatsApp enabled disappearing messages option](#); Google [announced to roll out end-to-end encryption for Android messages](#) and [Facebook awards $1.98 million to researchers for findings bugs](#) in 2020

- The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) issued a judgment in [Case C-59/19 Wikingerhof GmbH & Co. KG v Booking.com BV](#) stating that online platforms may be sued by the plaintiff over abuse of dominant position.

- The consolidation in the Domain Name Industry continues. With [Afilias being acquired by Donuts](#), Donuts now owns over 450 generic top-level domains (out of a total of 1,200). Whether such consolidations will lead to market dominance by few players in the domain name industry will only be visible in times to come.

- The Global Cyber Alliance, CentralNic Registry, and several other registries, registrars, ISPs, banks, and other organisations [have launched](#) the [DomainTrust platform.](#)

- Voters in California have passed the [Proposition 22](#) (Prop 22) that side steps the AB5 bill, exempting ride-hailing apps from classifying drivers as employees.

- The Monetary Authority of Singapore has [launched a consultation](#) on proposed notice on non-face-to-face individual identity verification. This consultation came owing to the rise in cases related to impersonation scams and seeks address the risks arising from theft and misuse of an individual's personal details. The consultation is open for commenting till 9 December.

India Updates

This month the Indian government [capped](#) the surge pricing to 1.5x and commissions to 20% of cab aggregators such as Uber and Ola; the Competition Commission of India (CCI) [approved Google purchasing](#) 7.73% stake in Jio Platforms and thereby cleared the way for the internet giant to jointly develop entry level Android smartphones; facing backlash, the government of Kerala [withdrew the ordinance](#) enforcing its criminalisation of online defamation; Tamil Nadu has [banned online gambling in the state;](#) [India's 5G technology TSDSI 5Gi](#) completed the evaluation phase of ITU and now conforms with the ITU performance requirement.

The [legal dispute between Amazon and Reliance Industries](#) over the purchase of Future Retail Ltd continues with the case being fought between Future Retail and Amazon in the Delhi High Courts. While the Singapore Arbitration court had halted the sale, the [CCI approved the proposed sale](#).

WhatsApp announced the [launch of money transfer operation in its platform](#) in India after the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) gave its nod to offer payments services via the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The [service would be available in 10 Indian languages](#). NPCI has allowed WhatsApp to expand its operation in a graded manner and in the first phase can only expand its payment services to 20 million users.

Concerns of low broadband penetration especially in rural India persists. As per report by Deloitte, the [broadband penetration in India's rural areas continues to be poor at 29.1%](#) against national average of 51% with 687 million subscribers as of March 2020.

IGF2020 Updates

The fifteenth Internet Governance Forum - vIGF2020. was held online. The overarching theme this year was 'Internet for human resilience and solidarity" and the four main themes were: Data, Environment, Inclusion and Trust. For the first time this year there was a Youth Summit, Environment as a main theme, overarching policy questions to guide thematic tracks and a call for voluntary commitments from IGF participants to further the goals of the IGF.

The meeting this year was held in two phases: phase 1: 2-6 November and phase 2: 9-17 November. The 12-day event was attended by 6136 participants from 173 countries. There were 275 sessions. Phase 1 had pre-events, Dynamic Coalitions (DC), open forums, NRI Collaborative sessions, Youth Summit, and networking sessions. Phase 2 had high level leader's track, Parliamentary roundtable, main sessions, workshops, Best Practice Forum (BPF) sessions, networking sessions.

In his closing remarks the UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasised the need for global unity to close the digital divide and provide inclusive and meaningful internet access to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted the "need to enhance the role of the IGF as a platform for dialogue on proposed solutions."

For more details IGF 2020 Summary, IGF 2020 Messages, Closing UN Press Release , IGF Output documents and the session reports and final report from Geneva Internet Platform and Diplo Foundation.

Renewal of 2021 Multistakeholder Advisory Group

During the IGF, the Secretary-General renewed the membership of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the Internet Governance Forum and its Chair. Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen, was reappointed as the Chair for the 2021 IGF. A total of 40 members, including 15 new members, have been appointed. **CCAOI Director Amrita Choudhury has been appointed to the MAG** to represent the civil society community. The **other Indian in the MAG is Rajesh Chharia** who is in his third term and represents the Technical community.

Besides, representatives of previous host countries and relevant international and regional intergovernmental organizations are also invited to attend Advisory Group meetings. Government of India as a previous host would be represented by T Santhosh from MeitY.

CCAOI at IGF

CCAOI Director Amrita Choudhury participated and spoke in a session WS108: Trust, Media Ethics & Governance During COVID-19 Crisis highlighting the need to be build the trust deficit online; connect everyone meaningfully; focus on media literacy; need for governments and business to be more transparent about their initiatives; while platforms are taking initiatives to curb the spread of misinformation and hate speech in their platforms, they need to do more transparent on their take down policies, the way their Algorithms take decisions; and need to look at innovative approaches to rebuild trust over internet and it has to be a concerted effort across stakeholders.

Pic: IGF Session108

ICANN Updates

This month ICANN announced the publication of the fourth version of Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone (RZ-LGR-4); called for expression of interest for the Chair of Phase 2A GNSO EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data by 23 November, call for expressions of interest for the position of Chair of the Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) Work Track, and a call for membership of the WT, by 30 November, SOs/ACs to nominate Fellowship Program Mentors and Selection Committee Members by 31 January 2021 and expressions of interest for Community Representatives Group to Select Independent Review Process Standing Panel by 4 December.

ICANN announced support to registrants impacted by the closure and insolvency proceedings against Net4 India. It may be mentioned that CCAOI Director Amrita Choudhury raised the issue at the ICANN69 Public Forum.

Comments are invited on: IANA naming function review (IFR) initial report by 2 December and ICANN's root name service strategy and implementation by 8 December.

The fifth Eastern European Domain Name System Forum (EEDNSF) was organised by ICANN and Caucasus Online, virtually between 18-19 November. The key topics for this year's program were: Regional focus on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and Universal Acceptance (UA); ICANN's Identifier Technology Health Indicators (ITHI) and Health of the DNS Ecosystem; DNS Operations and Security and Business Continuity for Registries: A Regional Approach.

The 2020 LAC Domain Names Week was held virtually between 23-27 November. Themed "Understanding the Ecosystem and Learning New Opportunities", the event included a day for the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community, two policy, technical and business days, and two days dedicated to interactive exchanges.

ISOC Updates

This month the Internet Society presented the prestigious Jonathan B. Postel Service Award to Onno W. Purbo; announced continued funding of IETF; invited chapters to enroll in the Fundamentals Program; cast vote on Chapterthon 2020 activities; announced the elected Chapters Advisory Council Steering Committee (ChAC SC) representatives for 2021. Besides, ISOC has created a Governance Reform Working Group chaired and vice chaired by two ISOC board Trustees, for chapter members to discuss on potential governance changes required at ISOC.

Updates from APAC Bureau:

The APAC Bureau involved in Community Network Exchange 2020 (CNX2020) which was themed "Meaningful Access with Community Networks" and held between 20 November - 4 December. The discussions in CNX2020 was based on 10 thematic areas. The event was organised by Internet Society in collaboration with DEF, APNIC Foundation, Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI).

Upcoming events:

Intercommunity 2020 themed Stories of Resilience will be held on 16 December at 13:00 UTC.

APNIC Updates

This month APNIC participated in IGF2020; [IETF 109](#) Bangladesh IGF [bdIGF2020](#); CNX2020 and [2020 Taiwan Internet Governance Forum](#) ([TWIGF 2020](#)) where APNIC DG Paul Wilson made a presentation on Critical Internet Resources. Joyce Chen from APNIC was selected as an UN IGF MAG member.

There was a call for volunteers of the APRICOT2021 program community and community members were encouraged to [join the APNIC SIG Guidelines Community Consultation](#) on 3 December.

TRAI Updates

This month TRAI released the [Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report for the Quarter ending June, 2020](#), that indicates that the number of telephone subscribers in India decreased by 1.48% over the previous quarter (from 1,177.97 million Mar-20 to 1,160.52 million Jun-20). However, the total number of Internet subscribers increased by 0.79% from the previous quarter (743.19 million at Mar-20 to 749.07 million Jun-20). Out of the 749.07 internet users 698.23 million are broadband subscribers and 50.84 million are narrowband subscribers. The Regulator also released the [Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st August,](#) 2020. The report indicates an increase in the total telecom subscribers by 0.33% from previous month 1164 million to 1167.81 million and by 1.53% on the total numbers of broadband subscribers from the previous month 705.40 million to 716.19 million.

This month the regulator [imposed penalties](#) collectively amounting to Rs 35 crore on eight operators including Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea (Vi) and Reliance Jio for allowing cybercriminals to issue fake SMSes to dupe digital payment users.

TRAI Jaipur office organized a webinar on 'Cyber Security' on 26 November.

Other Updates

Articles, Reports & Statements:

- [UNCTAD's](#) new study '[COVID-19 and e-Commerce Impact on Businesses and Policy Responses](#)', highlights the impact of COVID-19 on digital economy, e-commerce especially in poorer nations of Africa and Asia. According to the study, there is a notable increase in digital financial services in the 23 nations surveyed, mostly least developed countries, yet, e-commerce businesses have been subject to challenges during the crisis, especially pertaining to disrupted supply chains, logistical problems due to restrictions on the movement of people, and high broadband costs. This was eased by some measures taken by the public and private sectors which made it possible for businesses and consumers to use e-commerce services.

- The OECD has published the '[Digital Economy Outlook](#)' that highlights the impacts of COVID-19 on the digital divide between rich and poor countries.

- The 2020 Network Readiness Index titled '[Accelerating Digital Transformation in a post COVID-19 Global Economy](#)' highlights Sweden and Denmark boast the highest rank at the global level while Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Yemen have the lowest overall ranking. In the Asia-Pacific region, the highest ranked countries are Singapore (3), Australia (12), and South Korea (14). India is ranked at 88 while China is ranked at 40 position.

- The ITU's [Measuring Digital Development: Facts and figures 2020](#) report highlights persistent connectivity gaps in rural areas.

- A [joint statement was sent out by Civil Society expressing concern](#) over proposals by the UK government which would undermine encryption especially through its Online Harms Bill.

- The European Union Blockchain Observatory & Forum [published its report on EU Blockchain Ecosystem Developments.](#)

- MediaNama has released [Tech Policy Review, India July -Sept 2020.](#)

- Verisign has released the "[Domain Names Industry brief Nov 2020](#)" that highlights a growth of .2% in domain names in the third quarter as compared to the second quarter. The total TLD is 370.7 million and in terms of country code TLD to 160.6 million.

Events:
- The fourth edition of [5G India 2020 Virtual Conference & Exhibition](#) was held virtually on 4 November.

- Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum was held online from 6-8 November 2020.

- [IETF109](#) was held virtually between 16-19 November.

- Broadband India Forum (BIF) organized the Digital Dialogues on "5G Opportunities with Satellite Broadband" on 17 November.

- The fifth Eastern European Domain Name System Forum ([EEDNSF](#)) was organised by ICANN and [Caucasus Online](#), virtually from 18-19 November. The key topics for this year's program were: Regional focus on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and Universal Acceptance (UA); ICANN's [Identifier Technology Health Indicators (ITHI)](#) and Health of the DNS Ecosystem; DNS Operations and Security and Business Continuity for Registries: A Regional Approach.

- The Dialogue along with Nullcon organized a Virtual Stakeholder Consultation 'Securing India's Cyberspace: Role of Encryption' on 20 November.

- Broadband India Forum (BIF) organized the sixth edition of India Satcom 2020 on 24 and 25 November. The theme for India SatCom 2020 was 'Satellite Broadband – The New Frontier'.

- The Fifth School of Asia Pacific School of Internet Governance 2020 ([APSIG2020](#)) was held virtually between 26-28 Nov with a day zero on 21 Nov with 12 sessions. The school was attended by 55 fellows from 24 economies of Asia. APSIG currently is supported by APASA (DotAsia, APNIC, ICANN, Internet Society), Article 19 and .ORG.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Upcoming Events

- [IIESoc](#) & [INTC](#) present this year's [Connections 2020](#) (a post-IETF 109 forum) as a 5-day virtual conference on Dec 7-11, 2020. The event will be 2.5 hours each day. To register [use this link](#).

- [APRICOT 2021](#) will be held online. The technical training workshop will be between 22-26 February 2021 and the conference (APRICOT and APNIC 51) between 1-4 March 2021

- Rightscon 2021 will be held online from 7-11 June 2021.

Opportunities

- Internet Society is looking for a Policy and Advocacy Manager to be based in New Delhi. For more details visit this link

- CUTS International is looking for an Assistant Policy Analyst. The candidate will be an integral part of the team working on primary and secondary research in the technology policy sector, on subjects such as infrastructure development, internet governance, cyberspace, disruptive technologies, privacy, data protection and security, misinformation and disinformation, encryption, data portability and sharing, digital taxation, artificial intelligence, internet of things etc. and will prepare research reports, write briefing papers, monographs, viewpoint papers, etc. For more details please click here.

- The government is inviting public comments for draft rules on how gig workers and platform workers will be given benefits under the Code on Social Security 2020 by 28 December.

- The Mozilla Corporation has launched a public consultation to crowd source ideas, recommendations, and insights that can help Mozilla to maximize the security and privacy-enhancing benefits of DNS over HTTPS before it is rolled out in Firefox outside of the United States. (Firefox users in the United States already benefit from it.) For more information visit this link. Last date to submit comments is 4 January 2021.

- Session proposals are being invited for RightsCon2021 by 19 January 2021

- APRICOT 2021 Programme Committee is now seeking contributions for Presentations and Tutorials for the APRICOT 2021 Conference by 7 February 2021.

For Regional Update from Asia visit this link.

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